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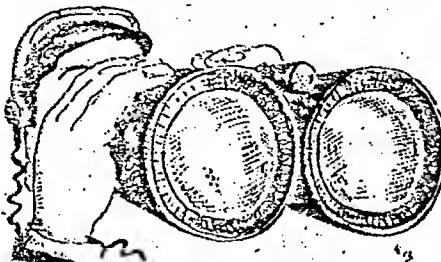
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PRO AND CON

*Should the U.S. Government Ease
Restrictions on Gathering Domestic
Intelligence Data About
Individuals' Criminal Activity?*



PRO Senator John P. East (R.-N.C.), member, subcommittee on Security and Terrorism.



Yes. A restriction that could be lifted is the current guideline which requires evidence that a crime has been or is about to be committed before the F.B.I. can investigate persons who advocate violence to achieve political ends or who seek to overthrow the Government. The problem is that without prior investigation the F.B.I. cannot obtain evidence of a crime being planned. The F.B.I. must wait until a crime is nearly in progress before it can use informants or engage in wiretapping, and that is often too late.

CON Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., (D.-Del.), member, Intelligence Committee

One of the Federal Government's primary responsibilities is to protect us against terrorists and spies. However, it is not necessary for Government to resort to the lawlessness of the Russian K.G.B. or terrorist organizations to provide that protection. The restrictions must be preserved because they are the practical ground rules which make surveillance and successful arrest and prosecution of spies and terrorists possible without resorting to the kind of illegal spying upon Americans by the C.I.A. that the K.G.B. conducts against its citizens.

